

## ABSTRACT

Techniques, methods, systems and system components facilitate new product development and product lifecycle management in an enterprise. According to a specific embodiment, the invention provides a networked-enabled development software engine that assists users  
 5 coordinate and keep track of progress and status of development activities. A unifying structure for Business Objects allows the software engine to provide a number of integrated cross-program functions, such as portfolio review and automated resource assignment and allows object portability and allows new objects to be more easily created from old objects.